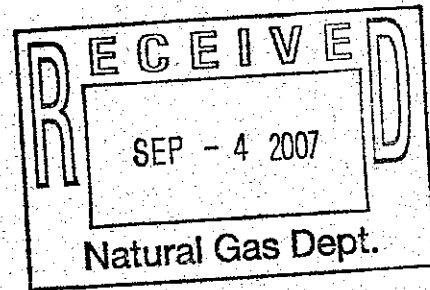




August 31, 2007



John Burvainis, Acting Director  
Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 94927  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

Re: Docket Number: NG-0051/PI 130

**PSC Commission Members:**

The Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council (EVEDC) serves Norfolk and communities in Antelope, Madison, Pierce and Stanton counties providing business attraction and other economic development services.

EVEDC worked for 18 months to attract Specialty Protein Producers and in the process acquired land for a plant site and raised \$16 million dollars in local capital for the project. The City of Norfolk annexed property and agreed to provide Tax Increment Financing for utilities to the project and other allowable incentives. The company would create 130-150 jobs.

When the company began inquiries about natural gas service Kinder Morgan, the inter-state pipeline transported, informed the company that the pipeline to Norfolk was at full capacity. Kinder Morgan then told the company capacity could be increased but the capital investment would have to be made by Specialty Protein Producers, both phases totaling an estimated \$9.2 million dollars. To make a long story short after marathon negotiations Kinder Morgan was adamant in not contributing to the improvement of their infrastructure. The company then moved their location to South City for a more favorable natural gas contract.

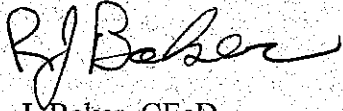
The communities of Wayne and Laurel have had similar experience with both Kinder Morgan and Northern Natural Gas. It is our belief that other rural hub communities have a transmission capacity issues but have not yet been faced with losing a prospect because of it.

Economic growth is dependant upon the capacity of utilities to provide services. The current regulatory situation has created monopolies effectively baring rural retail and job

centers from growth potential and rewards irresponsible business practices. It is time for more competition in the transportation of natural gas in Nebraska.

On behalf of the board of directors of the Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council I urge the PSC to assume authority for intra-state transportation of natural gas.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. J. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R. J." and the last name "Baker" clearly distinguishable.

R. J. Baker, CEcD  
Executive Director  
Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council